AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating or preventing pancreatitis comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):

wherein: each of a, b and c is an integer from 2 to about 6; n is an integer 0 or 1; and each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} are, independently, hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons; with the proviso that when n is 0, at least one of R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 is alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons, and when n is 1, at least one of R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 and R_8 is alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons.

- 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein a is 3, b is 4, and n is 0.
- 3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein each of R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 is, independently, hydrogen or methyl.
- 4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$CH_3$$
 | $R_2R_1N - CH - (CH_2)_2 - N - (CH_2)_4 - N - NR_9R_{11}$ | R_{10}

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_9 , R_{10} and R_{11} is hydrogen.

6. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein the compound of formula

$$CH_3$$
 V
 $H_2N - CH - (CH_2)_2 - N - (CH_2)_4 - NH_2$
 $|V|$
 $|V|$

7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein the compound of formula

I has the formula

$$CH_3$$
 F
 $H_2N - CH - (CH_2)_2 - N - (CH_2)_4 - NH_2$
 $|$
 $|$
 $|$
 $|$

- 8. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein a is 3, b is 4, c is 3, and n is 1.
- 9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein each of R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 and R_8 is, independently, hydrogen or methyl.
- 10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 9 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10 wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} is hydrogen.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 9 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$CH_3$$
|
 $R_2R_1N - CH - (CH_2)_2 - N - (CH_2)_4 - N - (CH_2)_3 - NR_9R_{12}$
|
 R_{10}
|
 R_{11}

- 13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 12 wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} is hydrogen.
- 14. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing pancreatitis comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a metabolically stable analogue of spermine.
- 15. (Currently Amended) A method of treating or preventing pancreatitis comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a metabolically stable polyamine hydrocarbon analogue of spermidine.
- 16. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing liver regeneration comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):

$$R_{2}R_{1}N - (CR_{3}R_{4})_{a} - N - (CR_{5}R_{6})_{b} - N - (CR_{7}R_{8})_{c} - N - R_{9}$$

$$R_{10} R_{11} R_{11} R_{12} n$$

wherein:

each of a, b and c is an integer from 2 to about 6;

n is an integer 0 or 1; and

each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} are, independently, hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons;

with the proviso that when n is 0, at least one of R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 is alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons, and when n is 1, at least one of R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 is alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons.

- 17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16 wherein a is 3, b is 4, and n is 0.
- 18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 17 wherein each of R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 is, independently, hydrogen or methyl.
- 19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$CH_3$$
|
 $R_2R_1N - CH - (CH_2)_2 - N - (CH_2)_4 - NR_9R_{11}$
|
 R_{10}

- 20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19 wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_9 , R_{10} , and R_{11} is hydrogen.
- 21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 20 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$CH_3$$
 \P
 $H_2N \longrightarrow CH - (CH_2)_2 \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow (CH_2)_4 \longrightarrow NH_2$
 $|$
 $|$
 $|$

22. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 20 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$CH_3$$
 $H_2N \longrightarrow CH - (CH_2)_2 \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow (CH_2)_4 \longrightarrow NH_2$
 $|$
 $|$
 $|$
 $|$

- 23. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16 wherein a is 3, b is 4, c is 3, and n is 1.
- 24. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23 wherein each of R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 and R_8 is, independently, hydrogen or methyl.
- 25. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 24 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

- 26. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 25 wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} is hydrogen.
- 27. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 24 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

28. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 27 wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} is hydrogen.

- 29. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing liver regeneration comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a metabolically stable analogue of spermine.
- 30. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing liver regeneration comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a metabolically stable analogue of spermidine.
- 31. (New) A method of treating pancreatitis comprising administering to a patient an alkylated analog of spermidine selected from the group consisting of methylspermidine, 1-methylspermidine, α-methylspermidine, and N¹-acetylspermidine.